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DATE: June 29, 2010
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: City Manager
SUBJECT: Approval of Letter to Arizona Governor Requesting Reconsideration of State Immigration Law

RECOMMENDATION

That Council reviews and comments on the attached draft letter to the Governor of Arizona, and, if acceptable, approves sending it to Governor Brewer.

BACKGROUND

At the June 22, 2010, Council meeting, a majority of Council, through consensus, asked staff to agendize for Council consideration a draft letter to the Governor of Arizona addressing concerns raised in our community about the recent immigration law passed by the State of Arizona. Attached is a draft letter for Council's consideration.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

It is unknown if taking any position on this matter will have an economic impact on the City.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact on the City's General Fund or other funds identifiable at this time.

Prepared and Approved by:

Fran David, City Manager

Attachment: Draft Letter



CITY OF
HAYWARD
HEART OF THE BAY

June 29, 2010

Honorable Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

DRAFT

RE Arizona's Recent Law on Immigration

Governor Brewer:

The City of Hayward is composed of an extremely diverse population, of which a large portion is composed of immigrants from Spanish-speaking and other countries. Currently, our demographic composition is 29% Caucasian, 34% Hispanic or Latino, 21% Asian, 11% African American, and 5% Other (includes mixed races). As such, our City values the contributions made to the richness of our community by both citizens and immigrants.

The City of Hayward understands that illegal immigration is a complex and divisive issue for all communities, particularly in border states like California and Arizona. We also believe that immigration policy is a national priority, which requires a thoughtful solution at the federal level if we are to make any rational headway on this issue.

It is unfortunate that the State of Arizona, in a solitary effort to stem the tide of illegal immigration into your state, has passed a strict immigration law making the failure to carry immigration papers a crime, and giving the Arizona police broad powers to detain anyone suspected of being in the United States illegally, with little or no cause. Like others, the City of Hayward believes such policies taken to their most negative limit could easily lead to racial profiling and, therefore, to the public's mistrust of our local police officers.

The City of Hayward is encouraging our federal representatives to turn their skill and attention to reforming United States immigration laws and procedures, giving thought to the jobless rate and limited resources in this country, the economic plight of those living in other countries, and the basic instinct of all peoples to seek a better life for themselves and their families. We encourage such federal legislation to be drafted and implemented with respect for the rights of all, immigrants and United States-born citizens alike; and to provide for implementation policies that address the need to control and prevent illegal immigration to this country through all borders, while allowing the United States of America to legally lead the way in sharing its resources and opportunities with others in the world.

We encourage the State of Arizona to set aside its new State law and to work with other border states like California to strongly encourage our national leaders to enact these appropriate and desperately needed reforms, legislation, and procedures at the federal level.

Sincerely,

Michael Sweeney
Mayor

Office of Mayor Michael Sweeney

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